

## NEW RECORDS OF HAWK MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM LIZARD ISLAND, NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

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### Abstract

New records are provided for two species of hawk moths, plus nine species and one form of butterflies, from Lizard Island, northern Queensland. Notes on abundance are included.

### Introduction

Prior to 2004, the hawk moths and butterflies of Lizard Island (off the north Queensland coast, about 93 km NNE of Cooktown) were poorly documented. Moulds (1985) recorded two species of hawk moths, *Macroglossum micaceum micaceum* (Walker) and *M. prometheus lineatum* (Lucas), while Duckworth and McLean (1986) listed 11 species of butterflies. Lachlan (2004) provided records for a further 17 species of hawk moths and 12 species of butterflies.

A second survey of Lizard Island was carried out by the author between 29 March and 8 April 2005. It followed the wet season but little rain had fallen in the previous month and continuous strong winds hampered the survey, as some parts of the island could not be reached.

Voucher specimens are temporarily in the author's collection; duplicates are held by the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, the Australian Museum, Sydney and the Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO, Canberra.

### Discussion

Table 1 details the new records. These comprise two species of hawk moths and nine species of butterflies. A second form of a previously recorded butterfly species was also collected. Unlike the first survey, which was carried out after a very severe drought, this second survey was conducted a month after the wet season. Butterflies were more numerous, particularly lycaenids, but they were mostly previously documented species. Perhaps the most interesting records from this second survey were *Petrelaea tombugensis* (Röber), noted by Braby (2000) as being uncommon within Australian limits, and *Nacaduba berenice berenice* (Herrich-Schäffer), which has not been recorded previously between Cooktown and Iron Range. Duckworth and McLean (1986) recorded an unnamed *Theclinesthes* Röber sp., which might be the same species (*T. miskini eucalypti* Sibatani & Grund) recorded during this survey.

It was surprising to note that the overall abundance of hawk moths was well down compared with the first survey. It was also interesting to note that no specimens have yet been taken of *Psilogramma* Rothschild & Jordan. This genus is very common along the Queensland coast and on islands of the

Torres Strait. The rarely encountered *Gnathothlibus australiensis* Lachlan, recorded by Lachlan (2004, as *Gnathothlibus Wallengren* sp.), was not recorded during the second survey. One female of *Macroglossum prometheus lineatum*, last recorded by Moulds (1985), was collected during the second survey.

Twenty-one species of hawk moths and 32 species of butterflies have now been recorded from Lizard Island.

**Table 1.** List of hawk moths and butterflies collected on Lizard Island during the March–April 2005 survey, additional to those recorded by Lachlan (2004). All are new species records except *Belenois java teutonia* (first record of pale form).

Species	Notes
HAWK MOTHS	
Sphingidae	
<i>Hippotion boerhaviae</i> (Fabricius)	Abundant
<i>Hippotion rosetta</i> (Swinhoe)	Two males, two females
BUTTERFLIES	
Hesperiidae	
<i>Suniana sunias reactivitta</i> (Mabille)	Two specimens
Pieridae	
<i>Eurema alitha</i> (C. & R. Felder) <sup>1</sup>	Not uncommon
<i>Belenois java teutonia</i> (Fabricius)	Pale form, one male
Nymphalidae	
<i>Junonia orithya albocincta</i> Butler	Not common, along beach areas
<i>Danaus petilia</i> (Stoll) <sup>2</sup>	Not common
Lycaenidae	
<i>Nacaduba berenice berenice</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)	One female
<i>Petrelaea tombugensis</i> (Röber)	One male
<i>Jamides phaseli</i> (Mathew)	Not common
<i>Theclinessthes miskini eucalypti</i> Sibatani & Grund	One female
<i>Catochrysops panormus platissa</i> (Herrich-Schäffer)	Common

<sup>1</sup>The subspecific status of Australian specimens has not yet been determined (Braby 2000); <sup>2</sup>The specific status of this species was discussed by Lushai *et al.* (2005).

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